

Boone Co. ATC Ceremony Marks a Beginning for a New Partnership and a Legacy of a Former Student

An educational partnership between Fyda Freightliner Cincinnati, Inc. and the KY Tech Boone Co. Area Technology Center (ATC) has been formed to train and develop a more skilled technician in the field of diesel technology.

"It's an honor," says Donnie Snow. "It's a real honor for a partnership like this to be formed in my son's name so students can succeed in life." It was the employees of Fyda who first conceived the idea of creating a partnership with the Boone Co. ATC as a means to honor a fellow employee. Mr. Darren Snow, who lost his life in a motorcycle accident, was a valued employee of Fyda Freightliner. He was also a graduate of the diesel technology program at the Boone Co. ATC. A ceremony to commemorate the partnership was recently held in Mr. Snow's honor.

There is a great need within the trucking industry for skilled diesel technicians. This partnership addresses a company need and creates an educational opportunity for young people to become interested in and trained for this type of career.



"This program is about inspiring teens to look towards choosing a career path that will reward them throughout their lifetime," says Dan Ruhe, general manager of Fyda. "This partnership is not about creating jobs, it's about providing a road map to a career. By bringing the top students out of high school and putting them into a real world training program, we are providing a future workforce that will be confident and competent."

As a full partner in this educational endeavor, Fyda donated a 1992 Freightliner road tractor that can be used as a trainer in the program; another tractor will be donated in the near future. Fyda management has also agreed to become involved in the ATC's advisory and steering committees to monitor and participate in progress of the program as well as establishing paid internships for the top three diesel technology students to participate in Freightliner's training program upon graduation from high school.



High school students from Boone Co., Ryle and Conner high schools are eligible to go through a selection process in order to qualify for the 2-year diesel technology program at the ATC. A rigorous diesel technology curriculum will be reinforced with reading and writing activities. The ATC and Boone Co. Board of Education will work together to award math and science credits for students to count toward high school graduation.

"Our goal is to provide students with the highest standard of education and skills training to become successful in the diesel technology field," says Boone Co. ATC Principal Al Tucker. "This partnership and all of its components are indicative of what can happen when education and business come together to meet a need."

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Snow (center) pose with any array of supportive business, industry, education and government officials



with appreciation plaque

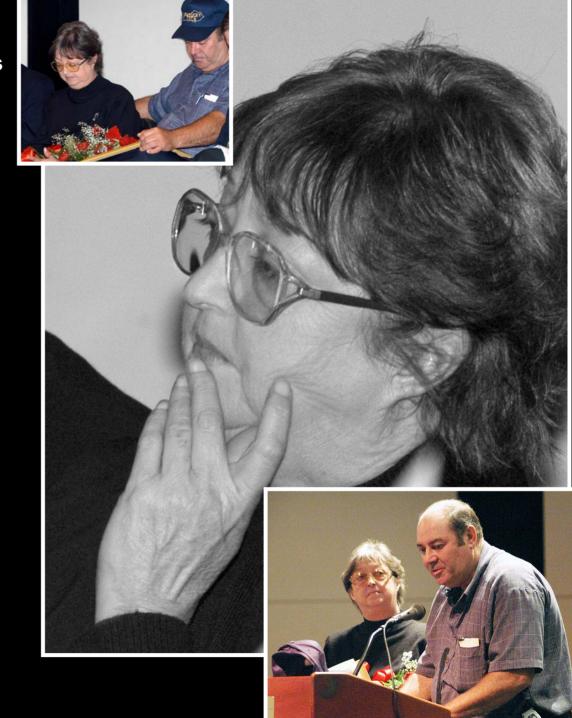
Exec. Dir. Emil Jezik and Senator Richard Roeding

"As a person who oversees 53 ATC's in the state, an event like this is gratifying because it exemplifies where we are trying to go in technical education," said Office of Career and Technical Education Executive Director Emil Jezik.

"Darren Snow was a remarkable young man," says Diesel Technology Instructor Joe Pietrosky. "This partnership will help take this program to the next level."

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"We knew Darren was special, but every parent thinks their child is special," said Mrs. Snow. "I didn't know how many people he touched. I thank Fyda and I'm very proud and very honored."



In business since 1954, Fyda
Freightliner is an authorized service
center for Freightliner, MercedesBenz, Caterpillar, Cummins, Detroit
Diesel, and Eaton & Meritor. Fyda
was named American Truck Dealer
Association/Business Week
Magazine Truck Dealer of the year in
1993 and Dealer of the Decade in
1997 for service to the community,
industry and profession.

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Good News Flash #96 November 19, 2004

